

11. (Newly Added) The tillering promoter for a plant according to claim 9, wherein said at least one amino acid is present in the kit component in a medium at a concentration of 0.2 to 2,000 ppm.

12. (Newly Added) The tillering promoter for a plant according to claim 11, wherein the concentration of said at least one amino acid ranges from 100 to 300 ppm.

Please amend Claim 8 as follows:

8. (Amended) A method for tillering promotion of lawn grass, comprising:
applying at least one amino acid selected from the group consisting of arginine, glutamine and proline onto the surfaces of the leaves of lawn grass; and
applying inosine to the subterranean part(s) of the lawn grass.

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 have been canceled. Claim 8 and new Claims 9-12 are active in the case. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in the case. Accordingly, applicants have retained allowable Claim 8 in the case and have canceled Claims 1-3.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected based on 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Vistica et al '726. This ground of rejection is obviated in part by the cancellation of Claims 1-3.

The Vistica et al publication discloses a culture medium that does not require CO₂ in amounts in excess of the concentration found in ambient air. The culture medium contains the free base forms of L-arginine, L-cysteine, L-histidine, L-lysine and L-tyrosine; biotin; fatty acids; pyruvate; asparagine; sodium bicarbonate and β -glycerophosphate buffering

agent. This culture medium clearly does not anticipate the claimed tillering promoter as claimed in the newly presented claims, particularly Claim 9, which is constituted of two components, one of which contains at least one amino acid as defined in the claims and the other component contains inosine. Accordingly, the anticipatory ground of rejection is obviated and withdrawal of the same is respectfully requested.

Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected based on 35 USC 103 as obvious over Vistica et al.

This ground of rejection is obviated because the new counterpart claims 11 and 12 are dependent on a claim (Claim 9) which is clearly distinguished over the culture medium of the publication because the reference provides no suggestion of a kit comprised of two components, one of which contains at least one of three specific amino acids while the other kit component contains inosine. Accordingly, withdrawal of the obviousness ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

It is now believed that the application is in proper condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Norman F. Oblon
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 24,618

Frederick D. Vastine, Ph.D.
Registration No. 27,013



22850

Tel: 703-413-3000
Fax: 703-413-2220

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1- 7 in favor of new Claims 9-12.

9. (Newly Added) A tillering promoter for a plant, comprising:

a two-component kit wherein one kit contains at least one amino acid selected from the group consisting of arginine, glutamine and proline for application to leaf surfaces and the second kit contains inosine for application to the subterranean part(s) of the plant.

10. (Newly Added) The tillering promoter for a plant according to claim 9, wherein the plant treated is lawn grass.

11. (Newly Added) The tillering promoter for a plant according to claim 9, wherein said at least one amino acid is present in the kit component in a medium at a concentration of 0.2 to 2,000 ppm.

12. (Newly Added) The tillering promoter for a plant according to claim 11, wherein the concentration of said at least one amino acid ranges from 100 to 300 ppm.

Please amend Claim 8 as follows:

8. (Amended) A method for tillering promotion of lawn grass [wherein], comprising:
applying at least one amino acid selected from the group consisting of arginine, glutamine and proline [is applied] onto the surfaces of the leaves of lawn grass [surfaces,];
and

applying inosine [is applied] to the subterranean part(s) of the lawn grass.